

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended by adding thereto the limitations of claim 8. Of course, claim 8 is canceled as being redundant of thus-amended claim 1.

The dependency of claim 9 is correspondingly changed, from canceled 8 to amended claim 1, and the last clause of claim 9 is broken out and made the subject of new claim 18.

Reconsideration is accordingly respectfully requested, for the rejection of what amounts to previous claim 8, on the combination of DOLECEK et al. 6,280,406 and SAMUELSON et al. 6,255,609. According to amended claim 1, that is, previous claim 8, the control system permits movement of the movement means 58 such that an operation of initial calibration, which consists in selecting the axial position of the member 52, is made when the membrane is at rest.

This calibration operation is not suggested by DOLECEK et al. In the embodiment of Figure 4 of DOLECEK et al., to which the Examiner refers, the solidarization between the membrane and the member that corresponds to our member 52, is made magnetically, because a magnet 120 is disposed on the end of the member 111 and a ferromagnetic disk 122 is overmolded in the membrane 130. The contact of DOLECEK et al. takes place by pushing that member 111 toward the membrane until magnetic attraction takes over and contact of the two pieces is secured

(column 7, lines 39-43), but DOLECEK et al. do not disclose calibrating by selection of the applied force.

By contrast, the contact that takes place according to our invention takes place by pushing the member 52 toward and against the membrane to apply a pre-stressing force. The calibration permits the choice of the position of the member 52 before operation. It is inherent that this choice is to press the member toward and against the membrane, and the claims so recite.

Accordingly, there is no teaching or suggestion in DOLECEK et al. of any modification according to SAMUELSON et al. and the combination of references accordingly cannot properly be repeated.

The recitation of claim 9 that remains is allowable as was the original version of claim 9. According to amended claim 9, the initial pretensioning force F_0 will be obtained such that the pressure measurement device will be capable of measuring blood pressure greater than or less than the pressure of the ambient air.

Claim 18 corresponds to allowed claim 9, and so needs no comment.

Reconsideration is also respectfully requested, for the rejection of claims 12 and 13 on the combination of DOLECEK et al. and SAMUELSON et al. Claim 12 recites the movement of the member 52, from out of contact, into contact with a flexible

portion of the external face 42 of the closure element 38 to apply a given initial pretensioning force F_0 in order to make the pressure measurement device 10 suitable for measuring blood pressure greater than the ambient air pressure or less than ambient air pressure. Again, DOLECEK et al. do not do this, and SAMUELSON et al. cannot properly be combined with DOLECEK et al. for the reasons given above.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, therefore, it is believed that this application has been placed in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert J. Patch', written over a horizontal line.

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